

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-19 are allowed.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art, which is the combination of Yamamoto, Soundararajan and Yuen, as presented in the Office Action mailed 17 October 2011, discloses a system that can apply different control lists which determine which channels can be tuned to (see Soundararajan [0040]). Different control lists can be applied (Soundararajan [0040]) by entering a predetermined pattern of inputs (Yuen col. 6 lines 46-50 – combinations of inputs can be entered to perform given functions). In this combined system, a user can switch to a channel that does not meet the criteria of a given control list by a two-step process: changing the control list by entering a sequence of input, then subsequently changing to the desired channel. The combination of references does not disclose that a channel whose preference degree does not meet a predetermined reference (i.e. a channel that is not on the current control list) is tuned to in direct response to a pattern of channel change inputs, as claimed in the independent claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ROBERT HANCE whose telephone number is (571)270-5319. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-4063. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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